

Blockades & Protests: GAC update (Feb. 21)

From: "Chaput, Ghislain -MINA" <ghislain.chaput@international.gc.ca>
To: *MINA-Exempt-Reporting/Exonéré-Reportage <d-mina-exempt-reporting@international.gc.ca>
Cc: *MINA-Dept Unit/Unité ministérielle <d-mina-dept-unit@international.gc.ca>
Date: Tue, 22 Feb 2022 00:22:18 +0000
Attachments: Truckers protest international roll-up Feb 21.docx (45.89 kB); IB_WSHDC-#768013-v1-2022-02-21 CONGRESSIONAL reactions.DOCX (12.72 kB); IB_WSHDC-#768003-v1-2022-02-21 CONGRESSIONAL reaction to trucker protest.DOCX (14.85 kB); Trucker Protest Rollup 2 (Feb 21).docx (42.78 kB)

Recent developments ~

- ~ **Convoy in Montana:** NBC news reports that drivers of trucks, pickups and other vehicles gathered in Hamilton, MT, Sunday afternoon to form a convoy to Missoula. The convoy was in support of Canadian truckers demonstrating against COVID precautions and government restrictions.
- ~ **Canada Rapid-Response Mechanism (RRM) Open Data Analysis (Feb. 20):** The discussion surrounding the "Trucker's Convoy" continues to garner international attention in both mainstream and alternative media spheres. This includes engagement from international networks and state-aligned media (e.g. those aligned with the **s.38** [REDACTED] which continue to operate at low levels compared with overall activity.
- ~ **Truck Convoy & March 1 State of the Union Address:** An Ottawa-style trucker protest may be headed for Washington, D.C., around the time of the State of the Union: The Metropolitan Police Department said in a statement it was aware of potential protests and had increased available resources, including Civil Disturbance Units, in preparation. "Capitol Police said in a statement that they were 'aware of plans for a series of truck convoys arriving in Washington, DC around the time of the State of the Union.' They added that they were 'closely coordinating with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.' ~

~International reaction and copycat actions

- ~ **Prague, CZ (Feb.21):** The Canadian Embassy in Prague was tagged in several tweets over the weekend relating to the "Freedom Convoy" in Canada, and critical of the arrests.

~
- ~ **Wellington, NZ (Feb. 21):** The protest has entered its 14th day, with more than 1000 people, 800 vehicles and 750 tents spread across the parliamentary precinct and surrounding streets. Early on Monday morning, Police reinforced the perimeter of the protest with concrete barrier, to prevent any more vehicles from joining. Police Commissioner Andrew Coster maintains that an overall de-escalation strategy is the right approach for resolving the situation. PM Ardern has called on protesters "to go home". Protesters continue to show signs they expect to be at Parliament for some time. Food stations have been set up, along with a 'church' campsite, tents to house 'security', and a second-hand clothes stall. In her post-Cabinet press conference, Ardern was asked if NZ would look to 'freeze' the protesters' funding streams, with the reporter specifically citing Canada's approach. Ardern said that "pursuing or identifying" whether there are particular funding sources to focus on is "a matter for police". She also reiterated her views that there were "elements of international influence" at the Parliament protest, referencing not just the "flag flying" but also the "messages of misinformation and disinformation".

└~

U.S. Media coverage └~

Canadian Official Schools Truckers On How Their Protests Aren't About Freedom

Huffington Post, Mary Papenfuss, February 21 2022

"A blockade is not freedom; it blocks the liberty of all," tweeted Bob Rae, Canada's representative to the United Nations.

└~

Letters to the Editor: Vaccine mandates work, even for tantrum-throwing Canadian truckers

Los Angeles Times, February 20 2022

A series of comments by Californians on the Trucker protests in Canada and vaccine mandates.

└~

With media targeting truckers' donors, say goodbye to anonymous free speech

New York Post: David Harsanyi, February 20, 2022

This week, one of the most popular small-donor fundraising sites for the Canadian truckers protesting the COVID vaccine mandates, GiveSendGo, was hacked. The names of donors were shared with the public. We know about this mostly because erstwhile news organizations, such as Reuters, have showered attention on the breach as if they were providing a public service. In Canada, the doxing has already begun.

└~

Justin Trudeau ends Canada's trucker siege but leaves bitter divisions

Financial Times, Charlie Mitchell, February 20 2022

Critics question use of tough emergency powers as political polarisation has worsened.

└~

Ted Cruz asks if civil liberties groups will support Canadian freedom truckers as they clash with police

Fox News, By Timothy H.J. Nerozzi, February 19 2022

US lawmakers on both the left and right have condemned the treatment of the freedom trucker protesters. Ted Cruz reacted to silence from civil rights groups Saturday as Canadian officials continue to clash with the Canadian trucker "Freedom Convoy" occupying the streets of Ottawa, Canada.

└~

A Social Credit System Arrives in Canada

Common Sense, David Sacks, February 20 2022

Justin Trudeau just created a caste of economic untouchables. Can we stop this dystopian policy from taking hold in America?

└~

Police regain control of most of Canada's capital, say protesters will continue to be identified and charged as holdouts persist

Washington Post: Miriam Berger, February 20 2022

A few bands of people with Canadian flags walked around yelling, "Freedom!" But their shouts fell flat in the otherwise quiet streets of Canada's capital, which were nearly completely back in control of authorities Sunday after a weekend operation to disperse the self-styled "Freedom Convoy" that pushed the government to invoke never-before-used emergency powers.

└~

After Trucker Protest, Canada Grapples With a Question: Was It a Blip, or Something Bigger?

New York Times, Natalie Kitroefflan Austen, Feb. 21, 2022

The demonstrators were passionate, organized and supported financially, but such spontaneous movements often have a tough time converting their energy into real change.

└~

Bitterroot convoy supports Canadian truckers' protest

NBC Montana, Kevin MakiSunday, February 20th 2022

Drivers of trucks, pickups and other vehicles gathered in Hamilton Sunday afternoon to form a convoy to Missoula. The convoy was a demonstration in support of Canadian truckers demonstrating against COVID precautions and government restrictions.

International coverage

Canadian police secure downtown Ottawa as truckers' protest ends

The Guardian (UK Edition), February 20 2022

Three-week occupation over Covid precautions and Trudeau government ends with 76 vehicles towed and 191 arrests.

↳

The Wellington protest is testing police independence and public tolerance – are there lessons from Canada's crackdown?

RNZ: Dominic O'Sullivan, 21 February 2022

Opinion - Today's action to cordon off the occupation of parliament grounds and prevent it growing might go some way to restoring public confidence in police, which has appeared to be eroding since the protests began a fortnight ago. The situation in Canada may be instructive. There, police have seemingly abandoned a de-escalation strategy that had lasted three weeks, with the protest in Ottawa cleared in the last few days.

Parliament protest deadlock - where to from here?

RNZ, Hamish Cardwell, 21 February 2022

Two weeks in and the occupation of Parliament remains a total stalemate with no sign protesters are going anywhere. So where to from here?

About 800 vehicles continue to clog streets around the precinct and protester numbers swelled to more than 1000 this weekend.

↳